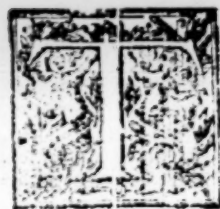


To the Right Honourable
THE
LORDS and COMMONS
IN
PARLIAMENT
ASSEMBLED,

The Petition of many the Inhabitants of the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*,
Counties of *Middlesex*, *Kent*, *Essex* and *Surrey*,

SHewing,



That whereas upon several Complaints heretofore made in Parliament concerning the Court of the Marshalls exceeding their Jurisdiction, and vexing the Kings Subjects; Several Acts of Parliament, viz. 28 E. 1. 3. 17 E. 3. 4. 31. 13 E. 2. 3. 15 H. 6. 1. yet in force and unrepealed, were heretofore enacted, which limited it to Actions of Trespasse and Contracts, made, and arising only betwixt the Kings Servants; and where both Plaintiff and Defendant were of this household, and prohibiting all Pleas of Freehold, and ordaining that no Pleas or Actions of Trespasse be there held or prosecuted; but such as may be determined whilst the King remains within the verge; And that divers Judgements have been since given against some of their proceedings which have transgressed the said Laws and Statutes, whereupon of late times, that Court hath forgoing contained themselves within the bounds, which the Law and its Original constitution had set it, but by colour of his late Majesties Letters Patents (which never intended nor warrants to be made of them) made and granted about the sixth year of his Reign, upon pretence that it being mentioned to be within the *Virge Palace Domini Regis*, and not *Hospitii*, as it was formerly, they doe by many illegal contrivances and devices, take all manner of personal Actions into their Cognizance, and by multitudes of Arrests, daily trouble and vex the people, and are grown so high in that kind of practice, as they make three or four hundred Arrests in a Week, and have forty or more Tryals every Friday, and to procure to themselves an unlimited Cognizance of causes, and to establish that usurped Jurisdiction, and encourage the people to vex one another with frivolous and malicious Brawls and Actions, do Arrest and hold Pleas, for as small and petty sums as eighteen pence, and cause special Bail to be given in every action, and in that, and all other their proceedings, take as great Fees, as the Superior Courts do in greater matters, and in trivial Actions upon Writs of Error, do not seldom put the Defendant to the charge of a Copie of a hundred or more Sheets of Paper, and do in one and the same Court day, first call and make the Style of the Court, after the ancient and former Court of the Marshalls, viz. *Curia Hospitii Domini Regis Palatii ne domusfamilie*, whereunto they proceed not at all, nor make any entries, and immediately after call to their new pretended Court with the Style of *Curia Domini Regis Palatii Westmonasterii infra Virgam Pallatii*, and upon, and by colour of that, make all their Proceedings, Pleas, and Entries, and by varying and changing the Style of the Court, do to perplex the Defendants, as if they bring not two several Writs of *Habeas Corpus* to remove the Action according to the several Stiles of their double Court, or two Writs of Error, and be well informed of the Style of the Court, or by which of the Courts they will proceed, of which most men are ignorant, they are sure to be deluded, and put by the remedies which the Law hath provided for them, and the Plaintiffs upon such unjust Actions are permitted to get Judgement, and where before to colour and feign a Jurisdiction, they did in the old Court or Proceedings, make a false averment that both the Plaintiff and Defendant were of the Kings Court, they do now untruly make a negative averment, that neither Plaintiff nor Defendant are the Kings Servants; and by such their doings, and sometimes alleging themselves to be the old Court, and at other times that they are a new erected Court for the Kings Palace of *Westminster*, or a part of the *Kings Bench*, do grievously oppress his Majesties Subjects by false, feigned, and chargeable Arrests, and Pleas, great Extortions, and Misdemeanors, and enforce the Defendants, who are any thing able to bear the burden of Suits to troublesome and costly removals of them into the Courts of *Westminster-Hall*, where they may be sure of better Justice,

Humily therefore pray, the mischief being now grown so Entomous, and Universal, as it deserves the interposing of a Parliamentary Authority, that the ancient Court of Marshalls may according to the former Acts of Parliament, which have been made concerning it, be reduced to its former and legal Channel, and may be so again restrained, if your Honours shall think fit. And that your Petitioners, and his Majesties People and Subjects may not by such Inundations of false and feigned Jurisdictions, and several concurrent Jurisdictions, be any more molested, and that as well the Knight Marshal, as the Steward, and Judge, Prothonotary, Attorneys, and Officers of that Court, may be summoned to answer the Premises in the high Court of Parliament, and that such Redresse may be had therein, as to your Honours shall seem meet.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray &c.